

California Public Lands

2008



Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate

From the State Director



The 15 million acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in California (about 15 percent of the total acreage) contain some of the Golden State's most stunning landscapes and most productive lands. All of us in BLM consider it a privilege to be entrusted with the care of these lands and resources by the American people and particularly the citizens of California.

The complexity, diversity, and sheer magnitude of this responsibility are described in the highlights, photographs, and maps that follow in this California Public Lands 2008 update. The challenges are huge and we recognize that there are usually multiple opposing viewpoints on any decision regarding management of these resources.

A current example of this dilemma is wind energy. National law and policies encourage wind energy development on public lands to help reduce both our dependence on foreign oil and aid in addressing global warming. But where should this "green energy" be developed? While there is support for wind energy in general, siting facilities next to

communities' viewsheds, in sensitive wildlife habitats, in areas where people recreate, or near cultural sites becomes very controversial. The same is true for other renewable energy projects, such as solar or geothermal.

The only way BLM can work through these and many other land management challenges to make sound, well-balanced land use decisions, is with the participation and help of the public. In particular, we appreciate those groups, agencies, and individuals who work directly with us through hundreds of formal and informal partnerships of all kinds.

While we've always valued these partnerships, we were pleased to have them recognized recently as part of a "once-in-a-decade" national management review conducted for BLM-California by our national headquarters office from Washington. The review team interviewed some 50 of these entities statewide and their findings were most encouraging. The team noted that "BLM-California and the external entities view partnerships as an investment in relationships, not just a business practice."

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This unique cooperative approach to public land management makes California stand out among the western states. We thank all those from the state and county level, to the organized groups, down to the individual volunteers who contribute their time and energy to the public lands. We hope you enjoy this summary of the many accomplishments we have achieved together.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Pool".

Mike Pool, California State Director

Major Programs

BLM-California is a multiple use agency and all the programs it manages by law or policy are important. At any one time, however, some programs move to the forefront for many reasons: public needs and demands, new initiatives, and on-the-ground priorities.

In 2008, four of our major programs met these criteria: 1) energy and commodities; 2) community growth and protection, 3) the National Landscape Conservation System; and 4) recreation.

- **Energy and Commodities** – The public, as well as the State of California's Renewable Portfolio Standards, and other factors, are looking to the public lands to help address the need for "green" energy. Solar, wind, and geothermal are all part of the mix, and BLM is working to balance these needs with environmental protection of sensitive lands. Until these new sources, on public and private lands, can meet demand, BLM also continues to manage and expand oil and gas development where appropriate in California.
- **Community Growth and Protection** – BLM considers itself a "good neighbor" to the communities in and around public lands throughout the State. This policy encompasses hundreds of partnerships with local, State, and Federal agencies, organizations, and individuals. More formal support mechanisms such as the 60 law enforcement agreements and 170 Fire Safe Councils provide protection to these communities. Finally, volunteers, either individuals or groups, increased their efforts in 2007 by more than 30 percent and the outlook for 2008 is even greater.
- **National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)** – BLM-California is proud to have more public land areas within the NLCS than any other State (169). The NLCS highlights the most special of the public lands – Monuments, Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and others.
- **Recreation** – Californians love to recreate and the public lands provide many recreation opportunities, from whitewater rafting, to hiking, to off-highway vehicle use, and many others. These uses totaled 9.5 million recreation visits and 3.5 million campers and picnickers in 2007 and expectations are up for 2008.

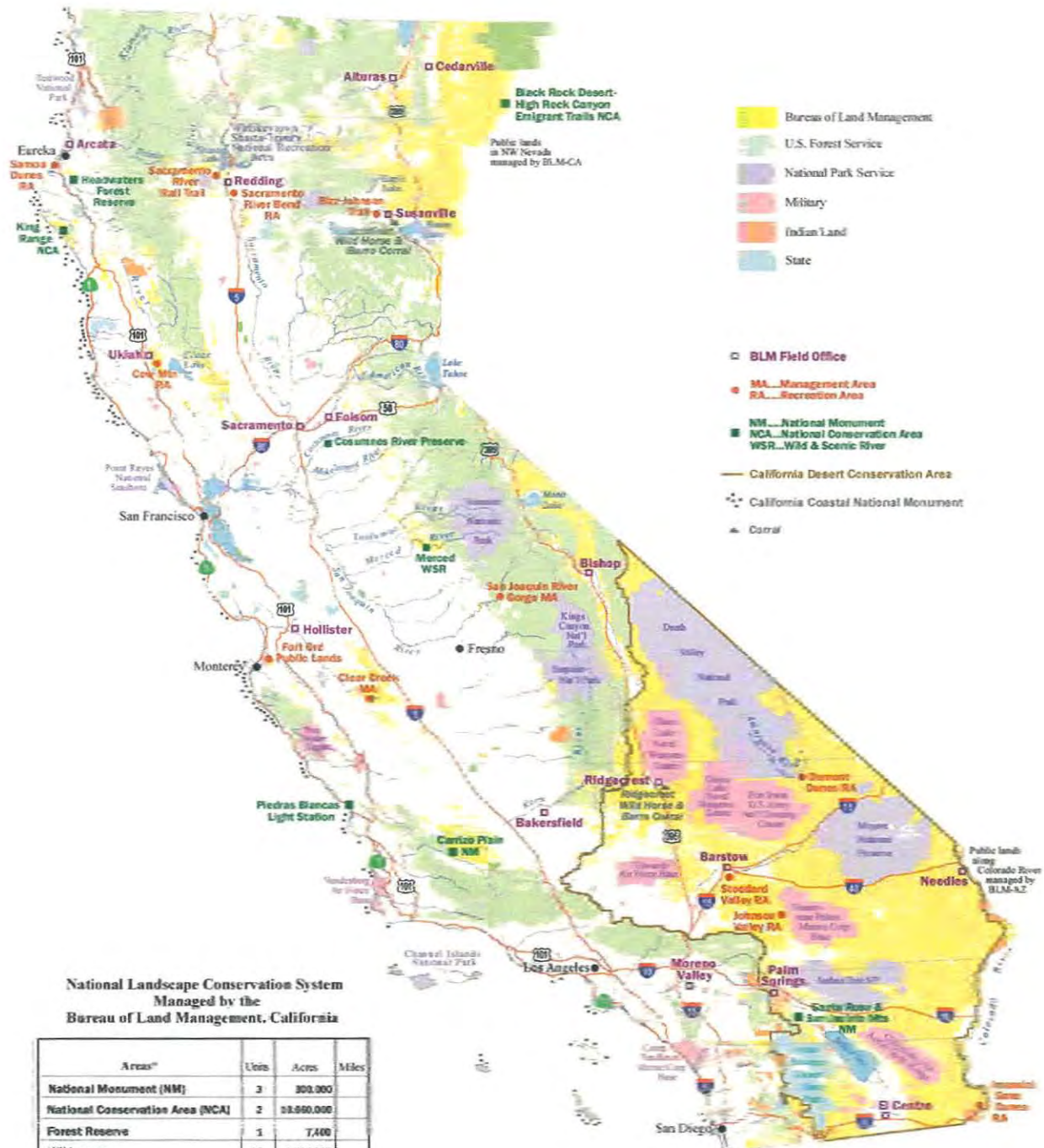
Public Land Acreages and Payments in Lieu of Taxes

COUNTY	BLM ACRES	PAYMENT
Alameda	217	\$1,255
Alpine	12,962	\$84,457
Amador	9,045	\$17,508
Butte	16,832	\$30,541
Calaveras	35,386	\$72,440
Colusa	33,230	\$79,558
Contra Costa	74	\$3,297
Del Norte	195	\$93,577
El Dorado	19,988	\$112,598
Fresno	154,417	\$1,020,886
Glenn	5,882	\$124,284
Humboldt	84,225	\$104,186
Imperial	1,262,365	\$1,803,554
Inyo	1,789,440	\$998,027
Kern	699,988	\$1,383,581
Kings	7,646	\$10,755
Lake	126,471	\$76,858
Lassen	1,009,052	\$496,311
Los Angeles	13,177	\$723,127
Madera	3,453	\$361,694
Marin	0	\$129,088
Mariposa	72,580	\$507,721
Mendocino	121,110	\$229,413
Merced	4,175	\$50,847
Modoc	272,581	\$347,769
Mono	557,114	\$574,999
Monterey	30,139	\$481,834
Napa	31,737	\$86,746
Nevada	18,989	\$40,485
Orange	1	\$74,905
Placer	20,329	\$78,718
Plumas	10,526	\$235,084
Riverside	1,549,441	\$1,907,243
Sacramento	4,497	\$13,878
San Benito	87,147	\$153,279
San Bernardino	6,180,471	\$1,808,465
San Diego	182,866	\$643,094
San Francisco	0	\$13,306
San Joaquin	603	\$3,143
San Luis Obispo	240,078	\$619,602
San Mateo	0	\$15,815
Santa Barbara	7,462	\$1,009,347
Santa Clara	1,735	\$2,756
Santa Cruz	12	\$0
Shasta	129,529	\$197,437
Sierra	1,921	\$90,910
Siskiyou	84,923	\$517,163
Solano	2,157	\$10,080
Sonoma	7,158	\$4,300
Stanislaus	471	\$4,731
Sutter	2	\$0
Tehama	48,580	\$89,691
Trinity	78,419	\$309,193
Tulare	121,436	\$1,523,429
Tuolumne	44,892	\$784,999
Ventura	1,928	\$813,869
Yolo	29,692	\$45,064
Yuba	1,582	\$9,514

TOTAL 15,230,328 \$21,026,411

Payments based on BLM acres and other Federal acres, not shown

Bureau of Land Management California



Public Land "Facts & Stats"

"Facts"

Wild Horses and Burros: Leader among 12 western states with over 1,000 animals adopted annually; 2,000 compliance inspections annually; plus nearing "appropriate management levels" of animals on the range.

Fire/Fuels Reduction: 37 pre-fire projects totaling \$2.1 million, which assisted 370 "Communities at Risk" in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Land Use Plans: 26 RMPs or major amendments completed or soon to be completed.

Threatened and Endangered Species: 309 federally listed, 235 state-listed species in California, and 66 rare plants.

Oil & Gas: Fourth largest BLM onshore oil producer; 4,300 producing wells on 389 leases; \$95.6 million in royalties.

Geothermal: 6 fields supply 31 power plants; enough energy for 500,000 people; 86% of nation's federal geothermal production; \$12 million in royalties and bonus bids of \$8 million at recent lease sale (8/14/07).

Wind Energy: 3,000 wind turbines producing 258 megawatts; \$500,000 in royalties; 24 rights-of-way on 4,060 acres.

Biomass Program: Western juniper initiative underway in Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada; 30,000 tons of biomass produced annually from BLM lands.

Solar Energy: Processing 79 applications for solar; 536,000 (all but 1 is in Desert).

Minerals Materials: First in contract value (\$40 million); 150 active mineral sale contracts; over a million tons of aggregate for infrastructure needs.

Solid Leaseable Minerals: 26 leases; 2.5 million tons of products; \$5 million annual royalties.

Mining Law: Fifth largest producer of gold in U.S.; three producing mines; second largest number of mining claims.

Abandoned Mines: 13,000 identified on BLM lands; 300 sites evaluated, 5 sites with water-quality problems remediated, 102 physically hazardous sites remediated.

Law Enforcement: 465,000 marijuana plants eradicated; 11 law enforcement agreements and 29 county, 6 state, and 11 Federal memorandums of understanding.

Recreation Partnerships: 288 agreements in California - most in the BLM.

Visitor Use Days: More than 9.5 million visits and 16 million visitor days annually.

Cadastral Survey: Survey over 600 miles of boundary lines annually for Federal agencies.

Invasive Weeds: Hundreds of acres of weed inventories, treatments, and evaluations annually.

Archaeology/Cultural: Conduct studies and protect thousands of sites.

Native American Consultations: Work cooperatively with 108 tribes in California on public land matters.

Livestock Grazing: 572 permittees lease 699 allotments on 8.1 million acres.

The logo for Newsbytes, featuring the word "News" in a serif font and "bytes" in a green, stylized font with a blue and green graphic element.

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"Stats"

- 15.2 million acres of public lands in California, 1.6 million in northwestern Nevada
- 44 million acres subsurface mineral estate under federal surface land, plus 2.5 million acres under private lands, 592,000 acres under Native American Tribal lands
- 2 National Conservation Areas: the California Desert and the King Range
- 3 National Monuments: the Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains, Carrizo Plain, California Coastal
- 1 Forest Reserve: Headwaters
- 145 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 70 miles of public land along six national wild and scenic rivers
- 82 wilderness areas covering 3.7 million acres, 71 wilderness study areas covering 900,000 acres
- 530 miles on 4 National Scenic & Historic Trails
- 17.5 million barrels of oil produced annually
- 4.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas produced annually
- \$33.5 million in receipts annually
- 58,000 ounces of gold produced annually
- 525,000 animal unit months of forage for livestock
- 8,040 miles of rights-of-way for roads and powerlines
- 11 million acres available for open and limited off-road vehicle recreation
- 276,000 hours contributed annually by volunteers
- 2,500 wild horses/600 wild burros
- 1.5 million board feet of timber harvested annually
- 800 wildlife species in California
- 24,300 mining claims
- 7,054 acres of critical lands acquired in 2007
- \$156.8 million budget 2007

Bureau of Land Management California Jurisdiction

California State Office

2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Information Access Center 916/978-4400

